

named for the original pastor, an enslaved man, Andrew Bryan.

To celebrate the anniversary, members of the congregation put on a play that showed the history of the church's founding.

The new pastor-elect, Reverend Christopher Pittman, will be the church's 20th pastor in its long-storied history.

Congratulations, First Bryan Baptist Church, on this wonderful anniversary. I hope your next 235 years are as successful as your first.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF TOM FANNING

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Fanning of the Southern Company.

Tom is the current chairman of the board, CEO, and president of Southern Company. For more than 42 years, Tom's excellent leadership has helped mold Southern Company into the great company it is today.

Tom has been responsible for leading the Nation's new nuclear initiative while at Southern Company. He has overseen the installation of two state-of-the-art units in Georgia, adding more than 4,000 megawatts of renewable energy since 2012.

Southern Company is the only U.S. energy provider investing in an all-of-the-above approach to America's energy future.

I thank Tom for his decades of service and leadership to Southern Company, the First District of Georgia, and our country.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF BEBE FLYNN

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Bebe Flynn.

Bebe was born in Lenoir City, Tennessee, in 1921. While living in Lenoir City, Bebe and her family were some of the few Catholics in town. In fact, a priest traveled to say mass once a month in their home. Maintaining her faith was always a strong focus for her.

After high school, Bebe attended Saint Mary's Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Knoxville, Tennessee, graduating as a registered nurse in October of 1943.

In 1945, she married her childhood friend and high school boyfriend, John Flynn.

In 2013, Bebe was the first recipient of Saint Patrick's of the Bishop's Award for her significant contributions to the parish as a volunteer.

Bebe and her husband, John, loved to travel in retirement, often with retirees from Denison.

She made friends where she went and was known for always keeping an upbeat attitude in life. She will be dearly missed by all those who knew her.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RUSSELL PEARCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I honor the life and legacy of Russell Pearce, a constituent, a colleague, a patriot, and a dear friend. Russell passed January 5, 2023, in Mesa, Arizona.

A fifth-generation Arizonan with a deep pioneer heritage, Russell was born June 23, 1947, to Hal and Norma Pearce in Mesa, Arizona. Russell had humble roots, but was raised by a loving, hard-working mother who taught him that he could make his own path in the world.

Driven by his faith, he knew that the principles of our divinely inspired founding documents established the United States of America as a bastion of liberty and peace. This belief ignited a sense of duty that led Russell to a life of success through service to his community, his State, and his country.

He first answered the call to serve in 1965 when he joined the Arizona National Guard during the Vietnam conflict. He served honorably until 1972, and, in the interim, joined the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, being sworn in as a deputy in 1970.

Law enforcement was in Russell's blood, as his ancestor, Joe Pearce, had been one of the original Arizona Rangers. Two of his own sons, Sean and Colten, have followed Russell's example, joining the MCSO and also the Gilbert Police Department, respectively.

In protecting his community, Russell demonstrated unrivaled toughness, courage, and dedication to duty. In 1977, while pursuing known gang members through a Phoenix suburb, one of them turned and fired. Russell was shot through the hand and chest, losing a finger. However, though wounded, Russell raced after the criminals and arrested them before seeking medical treatment.

He received the Medal of Valor for his actions, the department's highest honor. Russell's tenacity and excellence led to steady promotions, eventually reaching the level of captain.

After his first stint at MCSO, Russell was elected to his public office as justice of the peace for Mesa's new north justice district in 1991. He earned a reputation of trust from Mesa's citizens and public officials.

He rejoined MCSO when he was appointed MCSO's chief deputy in 1993 by America's toughest sheriff, Joe Arpaio. Serving as chief deputy for the largest law enforcement organization in Arizona and the fourth largest in the United States was a monumental task.

Russell developed not only a love of but a true talent for public policy. He crafted and successfully implemented major reforms aimed at cutting millions in taxpayer costs and reducing offender recidivism.

His success as chief deputy led to his appointment as director of the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety, where he led the Motor Vehicle Division. He created ServiceArizona.com, a first-in-the-Nation web service that made registration faster and simpler for Arizona motorists and exponentially reduced wait times and costs.

Of course, Russell is best known, nationally and locally, for his work in the Arizona State Legislature. He served for 11 years representing North Mesa in the Arizona State House first, and then the Arizona Senate.

While in the senate, Russell demonstrated the foresight to tackle the biggest challenges facing Arizona and its citizens. I was honored to serve with him and call him my friend and colleague.

Russell authored and introduced important legislation designed to shrink government. Ultimately, he was elected senate president and worked steadfastly to advance legislation that promoted the principles and values important to Arizonans: the right to life, the sanctity of marriage, defense of our southern border, and reverence for the Constitution and God-given liberties.

At times, Russell's courage to bring these issues to the front placed Arizona in front of national issues, such as the passage of S.B. 1070, which allowed, among other provisions, State and local enforcement of immigration law. That took foresight. It took immense courage to be the face of that legislation.

Russell Pearce was ahead of his time. With the current overwhelming crisis at our southern border, we see that States take the brunt of the consequences when the Federal Government fails to enforce our laws and protect our citizens.

Millions of Arizonans are freer, safer, and more prosperous thanks to Russell Pearce's courageous and farsighted leadership in addressing difficult public policies. Freedom-loving Americans across this great country enjoy the fruits of his efforts, thanks to their respective States modeling legislation after those crafted under Russell's leadership.

His professional and political legacy is truly unmatched and is only outshone by his love of God and service to his church, his loyalty to the country he loved and, most importantly, his beautiful family that survives him: his wife, LuAnne; his 5 children and 13 grandchildren.

To quote Russell himself:

"You know where my heart is. You know it is with this great Republic of ours and its freedom-loving citizens. I believe God had His hand in making America. We have the greatest document ever written by wise and virtuous men and the greatest country in the world because of freedom-loving people like you, the freedom-loving people of America. I, for one, will continue to fight to protect your freedoms from government encroachment. It is America's commitment to that freedom, personal responsibility, and moral government that makes us strong."

Rest in peace, Russell, and God bless LuAnne and the Pearce family.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from